

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Courtyard Conference Room

Committee Members:

Dave Russell (Chair)
Cynthia Charat (Vice Chair)
Jim Love
Dan McBerty
Bill Reinert
Chip Dennerlien – arrived late
Clifford Ostermeier - absent
Vacant Position

City/Staff Liaisons:

Jeff Nelson (Parks)
Dan DeYoung (City Council Liaison)
Lora Glover (PCD Director)

Guests:

I. Business – Continuing

A. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2015

MOTION/VOTE

Committee Member McBerty moved and Committee Member Reinert seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2015 meeting as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members Russell, Love, McBerty, and Reinert.

“NAYS”: None. Abstain: Committee Member Charat. Absent: Committee Members Dennerlien (arrived after vote) and Ostermeier. The motion passed.

II. Business – New

A. Announcements – none

D. Update RE: Article 23 and 25 (Lora)

- Lora asked if Committee had any comments about work Jim had done before and the comments/notes provided by the other consultant (Rich Catlin).
- Jim shared he felt it was more informational/educational than it was addressing changes to the code.

- Lora pointed out where there were specific examples (in the back of packet) to incorporate into the development code. Narrative would be good justification when going through Planning Commission and Council.
- Committee members didn't recall seeing that part – Lora left briefly to get them copies

**** While waiting for Lora to return Councilor DeYoung shared positive feedback he received on Back to the 50s and beauty of Riverside Park and our town.*

- Chip shared this is an important time to get parking lot issues taken care of
- Items in Article 23 that shouldn't be hard to sell to decision makers – adequate soil, larger tree wells, tighter tree spacing, careful selection of tree canopy species, etc.
- Committee's background/experience will be helpful to guide tree list for parking lots
- A reworked list would be helpful for parking lots but one site doesn't fit all
- Discussion about Medford tree spacing, island size, rooting area, structural soil, etc.
- Lora expressed concern about more inspections=more personnel – Jim shared he believes Medford requires the landscape be certified prior to the signing off of the certificate of occupancy and no maintenance bond required
- Councilor DeYoung shared he would like to see flexibility that still meets canopy requirements – discussion about parking lots grids and tree clustering and mixing conifers and deciduous
- Councilor DeYoung suggested an upfront statement explaining reasoning behind rules for trees/parking lots –Lora added rolling the purpose and intent into criterion and standards would be helpful.
- Lora suggested future goal of rehabbing current parking lots. Could possibly be accomplished with a City program (possibly CDBG) to help businesses improve canopy on their "key lots". Another option could be the redevelopment agency incorporating part of the 7th Street corridor to amp up landscaping requirements.
- Chip suggested Kick Starter campaigns to pay for landscaping

- Dave asked Lora for direction on how to move forward with the Article 23 & 25 re-write – she would like the Committee’s input, then staff will redraft the articles, then it will be brought back before Committee for final input/comments/approval, and then it would go forward. The new senior planner would likely be taking on the project.
- Dave reminded Lora that, while the Committee has given their comments, Jim is the Committee member that has the most experience/knowledge about this topic.
- Staff will send advanced copy of draft re-write to Jim before it goes out to entire Committee.
- Councilor DeYoung shared how staff is helpful in working out the appropriate wording of the code.
- Chip reviewed main points to be included in the re-write
- Lora will send Jim the site plan review criteria (especially for minor site plans) under Article 19 and also the non-conforming development under Article 15 to look over. Under these there is limited, if any, ability to require new landscaping – another area to strengthen in the code.

Misc. Discussion:

- More discussion about business landscape improvements especially up and down the 6th/7th Street corridor and how it would improve our city’s beauty but how to make it easier/realistic and not cost prohibitive for businesses to make improvements
- Hard to find distinguished landscapes (commercial) to give yearly award to – already awarded all the good ones
- More discussion on ideas regarding the rehab incentive program
- Upcoming workshop for staff, committee members, etc. (speaker: Kristen Ramstead – Forester)
- Dave suggested asking Kristen Ramstead if she knows of any funding sources

B. Event Calendar Review

- **Tree Walk** – Riverside Park, Sunday, October 18th
- **Fall Tree Tour** –
 - Councilor DeYoung suggested, again, a tour (with map) of trees of significant color, just like the Christmas lights tour
 - It could last for weeks as the different trees change at different rates
 - Cynthia shared the *Courier* would publish it if the Committee put it together
 - Challenge of knowing exactly when trees will start changing – Councilor DeYoung said it doesn't matter, create the route/map of areas of known color, publish it, and then it is up to the public to get themselves there to view color
 - Cynthia will tell Edith at *Courier* that the Committee wants to do it
 - Councilor DeYoung also suggested they could eventually add food, wine, beer, art, etc. stops to the route
 - Cynthia asked Jeff to look for lists of colorful trees that were submitted to staff a couple years ago

C. Updates (Jeff)

- Taking a few trees out at Riverside, continuing to watch those
- Need to keep planting trees
- Tree taken out at water treatment plant – no public outcry (good and bad)
- Discussion about arborist videos on YouTube

E. Meeting every other month – Discussion

- Variety of ideas discussed at last meeting
- Dave still feels 10 meetings per year and 2 workshops would work (skipping January and July or August)
- Chip didn't feel like meeting every other month would get things done
- Jim liked the workshops idea (wouldn't need a quorum, topical discussion) but thought it might be better to schedule 12 meetings with the option of cancelling (not more than 2 cancellations in a row) if there are not pressing projects

- Cynthia asked if the Committee vacancy was advertised? – Jeff unsure
- Jeff reminded Committee that scheduling for meeting space for workshops could be slightly complicated – Dave suggested any workshops would follow regular meeting date/time.
- Dave suggested they not change anything officially and just play it by ear and see how things look in January.
- Cynthia suggested January meeting be goal-setting (maybe with a facilitator)
- Councilor DeYoung would need to check on when Council goal-setting is scheduled for next year

F. Comments

- Brief discussion about trees put in at E/F Street – some differing of opinion about whether it is better or not
- Jim encouraged Committee members to Google “shaded parking lots” and to review links he sent out months ago on different cities’ parking ordinances – grid systems maximize return
- Cynthia asked Jeff to also ask Kristen Ramstead for information on shaded parking lots
- Dave will be absent from September and October meetings

Next Meeting: September 14, 2015

These minutes were prepared by contracted minute taker, Becca Quimby.